

# **CITY OF REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES — March 31, 2004** **Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Gary Smith, Maureen McCoy, Julie Barnfather (arrived at 8:15 p.m.), Sue Chenault, Glenn Eades, Ken Bechmann; Youth Advocate Emily Thompson

**ABSENT:** Kris Colt

**CITY STAFF:** Tim Cox, Manager of Parks Planning; Linda Gorremans, Park Planning; Teresa Kluver, Park Operations Supervisor; Pam Maybee, Recording Secretary

**AUDIENCE:** None

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*Note: **Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.***

### **AGENDA**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Gary Smith called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Trails Commission (RTC) at 7:05 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC).

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion for approval of February 11, 2004 Joint Meeting RTC & Pedestrian-Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC) minutes as submitted by:** Commissioner Eades

**Second by:** Commissioner Chenault

**Motion carried:** Unanimous 7-0

#### **III. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

None

#### **IV. ITEMS OF INTEREST/HANDOUTS**

None

## **V. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS**

### **A. National Trails Day – June 5, 2004**

A National Trails Day event similar to last year at Luke-McRedmond Park was proposed. Park Operations would be asked to set up and take down the tables and canopies. Linda Gorremans, Park Planning, noted trails maps could be handed out. She also reported the kayak business was eager to participate in the event with RTC. Commissioners discussed whether or not to involve bike shops and what they would do at the event. McCoy suggested recumbents or tandem rentals to try out on the trail.

Smith referenced an email from Terri Musser, Bicycles, Etc., Inc, who requested their literature, be available as a handout at RTC's event to raise public awareness of two events the following week: June 9 transit meeting and June 10 bike planning meeting. Also, Leah McWhirter, GRTMA, requested availability of their literature on "Bike to Work Day" in May at the RTC booth/event. Smith asked staff whether the City would want to do the Trails Day event more as a City function, since City employees, Jamie Straus-Clark and Marta Hurwitz from Community Affairs, are promoting the public events. They may provide materials for Trails Day, as well as promote the event through *Focus* articles, web site announcements, etc. ***Commissioners will include these handouts at the Trails Day event.***

Smith asked Teresa Kluver, Park Operations Supervisor, whether or not two porta-potties could be made available. Kluver stated there would be costs involved. Commissioners agreed it would be better to provide a map to direct the public to businesses allowing restroom use. The Redmond Library and Public Safety Building restrooms would be open also.

Eades reported that several members from the PBAC would be at the event. The group is anticipating working together with RTC.

Event particulars:

- ***Gorremans will get flyers for discount bicycle helmets from the Fire Department. She will bring a helmet as a sample to display.***
- ***Gorremans will provide letters of support for the Bear-Evans Creek Trail (BECT).***
- A kayak banner display (as from last year) cannot be used per City code.
- Barbecuing in the park is not allowed without a special use permit. The Recreation Division can be contacted for a food handler permit. Kluver suggested giving away chips or other food not requiring a use permit.
- Smith contacted the Washington Water Trails Association who had a representative at the event last year, recruiting for their organization.
- Commissioners decided not to commercialize bikes. ***Eades will talk to Arnie Tomac to decide another biking event.***
- ***Bechmann will contact BBTC to see if they are interested in participating,*** since this backcountry group does use the City's PSE trail.

- *Cox will contact Dave Alm regarding any other bike clubs that may be interested in participating.*
- Staffing of booth:
  - Hours from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
  - Two-hour shifts of two people at a time—one person from both groups (RTC & PBAC) *Eades will announce it at the PBAC meeting; Smith will ask Arnie Tomac for volunteers.*
- *Cox will send out email with time slots for sign-up.*
- *Staff will provide table, canopy, ice chests/water, chairs, easels, maps, handouts.*

## **B. 2003 Maintenance & Operations Summary Report**

Teresa Kluver presented a handout of Park Operations 2003 overview that cited hours, volunteer projects (trail-focused), and Operations' 2004 focus. Trail related hours were spent on maintenance, storm response, upgrading trails, installing a grid signage system in the Watershed, and volunteer projects—many installing trail signage.

Kluver cited the 2004 focus would be on the Bridle Crest Trail signage and improvements, along with ongoing trail maintenance system-wide. The volunteer projects are now being directed toward those that require little skill due to the limited resources. For example, community service volunteers would not require overtime staff hours.

Cox noted there has been an increase in trails, but not an increase in financial resources for maintenance and operational support (e.g. signage).

Eades noted he would like to see the City aggressively work to improve the Bridle Crest Trail. He was pleased to see the focus on it.

Kluver advised Gorremans that she could contact either Chris Tolonen or Justin Miniken (both Crew Leads) as a point-person for National Trails Day.

## **C. Transportation Master Plan**

Cox handed out a general schedule of events that would lead to the adoption of the Transportation Master Plan in December 2004. He reported the consultant hired by the City to prepare the TMP met with the Park Board, RTC, and staff. With input from that meeting, they submitted a draft summary for the non-motorized transportation chapter. Cox noted the handout also included the 3/24/98 research paper by Terri Musser, Bicycles, Etc., Inc., regarding multi-use conflicts. He also emphasized that the consultant treated non-motorized transportation in a positive light, making it a bigger part of the City's TMP.

Commissioners reviewed the new terminology defining the three different types of trails: Backbone, Collector, and Neighborhood. Cox confirmed these terms were defined by the groups that met with the consultant, including RTC and PBAC.

Cox reported an initial draft of the PRO Plan has been given to the Park Board. RTC will be seeing the next version of the draft. The TMP would be adopted in December, and the PRO Plan in June. However, if cleaner language/standards are devised in the TMP, staff can incorporate it into the PRO Plan at the next 2-year update.

**Commissioners were asked to review the handout and to direct comments to Cox or Gorremans.** The consultant may be invited to RTC either in April or May to provide update. Through this handout, Cox wanted to ensure RTC was being notified of the public events for the TMP.

It was thought that events in June should be changed to read: June 9, Transit Open House; June 10, Bicycle Open House. **Staff will confirm these changes.**

Eades commented that Commissioners need to be watching and influencing priorities, since the consultant will be directing the limited funds. Staff would be looking at the CIP and the PIP and those priorities, and Cox affirmed those priorities would be driven by staff and RTC.

#### **D. Grant Opportunities Related to Bear & Evans Creek Greenways**

Gorremans referenced two handouts: (1) estimated costs to acquire remaining land for the BECT (also showing what has been accomplished so far), and (2) a map of properties in the trail corridor, identifying some of the missing links.

Tomorrow, 4/1/04, Gorremans will send a grant request to King County for the Conservation Futures Tax Levy. The City is proposing to buy two properties: (1) .8 acres of commercially zoned land by Championship Motors in the Avondale triangle, and (2) an easement where the Gray Barn headquarters is currently located. These properties provide a trail segment between Avondale and Avondale Way. Conservation Futures' highest priority is to preserve natural areas; BECT is a high priority. If these two parcels can be acquired, the City would have continuous trail right-of-way from Avondale Road to the Sammamish River Trail.

The City will try to match this grant with state IAC funding from WWRP—the trails division. Acquisition funding (not development) will be requested at this time.

Gorremans also reported the City is considering applying for a King Conservation District grant.

Smith asked for an update on the bond issue. Cox reported the Mayor has suggested BECT as a high priority in the bond discussion. Trust for Public Land, the consultant for the City, who has worked for cities on bond issues, had suggested helping the City get ready for the September 2004 primary since it appealed to selected demographics that might maximize potential success.

However, the most recent indication is that the City may need to take more time to evaluate the bond opportunity. Timing for the bond is currently uncertain. *Staff will report next month when more would be known regarding pursuit of the bond.*

Gorremans gave an update on the Evans Creek Trail construction period:

- The City is close to getting permits from King County for the elevated trail (May).
- Must build at least a portion in 2004 to comply with IAC grant requirements.
- Price of steel is escalating; a cost estimate is coming in next week.
- Moving ahead with timetable: Construction slated to begin in June or July (pending King County permits).
- Update at next RTC meeting.

#### **E. Trails Commission/Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee Joint Meeting Debrief**

Smith referenced the action items from the minutes of the joint meeting:

- Page 4: Regional Trails in King County
  - Commissioners would like copies of the King County trails map. *Cox will follow up.*
  - Smith reported no progress has been made on the Rose Hill trail.
  - Park Department—not Planning Department—would be the point for design the Rose Hill trail through the use of a consultant.
  - Authorization is needed to spend PBAC's money to hire a consultant. *Cox will talk with staff about this; Smith will talk with Arnie Tomac regarding funding to hire a consultant for the Rose Hill project.*
- Page 7: Redmond Community Development Guide number (3) (page 271):
  - Smith has talked with Cathy Beam, who will be working to get the footage specifics out of the Development Guide, although a case-by-case review would be still needed on the Sammamish River Trail.
  - Cox has re-checked the code; staff would prefer the trails to be exempt. There is a section in the SAO that provides for low impact uses, i.e., trails, to cross buffer areas if mitigation is provided. It is a case by case basis, but it would be doable.
  - In reference to the shorelines group, Eades cautioned against inviting conflict by drawing out a blanket exemption. Cox noted sections of code allow low impact uses such as trails.
  - Gorremans reported that as the City's been doing habitat improvements along the Sammamish River Trail, they have widened the adjacent trail to 12 feet.

#### **F. Joint Commissioners February 2004 Meeting Report**

Eades and Bechmann attended the joint meeting with other Commissions who contributed their ideas to the PRO Plan.

Bechmann reported there were no substantive action items that were pertinent to the Plan; ideas were offered, but it was not clear as to how it would be incorporated.

Cox reported the Planning Commission wanted clarification and verification that (1) no duplications would occur in the Comp and PRO Plans, and (2) no policies would occur in the PRO Plan would reference policies in the Comprehensive Plan and would serve as an "implementation" plan. Cox verified this to them.

#### **G. Transportation Improvement Plan - Introduction**

Cox reported that staff met with Public Works in March to collect TIP information and update the database. Commissioners received a handout of the proposed 2005-2010 TIP project schedule. They also received a handout of last year's approved 2004-2009 TIP calendar. Cox noted there would be few changes in this year's document related to trails.

Trails in the TIP have allowed the City to pursue grants. With the backbone trails part of the TMP, the benefits to parks and trails would be from a funding perspective. Public Works and Parks Departments will be applying for a TEA-21 grant to pave the PSE trail area between the new Sammamish River Bridge and the Red-Wood Road (Project B10) construction in 2008. Barnfather questioned how that area could accommodate both paved and soft surface trails. Cox noted the right-of-way is 200-feet wide. Commissioners expressed concern that not all 200 feet is accessible. Staff invited Commissioners to walk the trail and give their input and ideas to the project leads, Dave Alm, Public Works, and Gorremans, Parks. He clarified that since by definition a backbone multi-use trail requires both hard and soft surface, there will be both available in that location.

Bechmann asked when the conceptual plan would take place. Staff anticipates by next year (2005). Eades urged staff to put the trail design on the list as a priority focus for this year.

#### **H. Project Updates**

- Cross section comparison of 116<sup>th</sup> (handout): **Update deferred to next month**

#### **I. Municipal Campus Park Master Plan**

Cox handed out draft copies of the *Principles and Goals* and the four alternative summaries derived from the 1/29/04 Charrette, which was held by the landscape designer, Hewitt Architects, for the Municipal Campus – Central Park Master Plan.

Smith asked staff what RTC's interest would be in the design plan. Cox answered: (1) trail head facilities, including parking, restrooms (accessible

weekends and evenings), and a possible picnic shelter; (2) ensure that trails are not blocked, and (3) ensure the trail is enhanced to come on to the campus site. All alternatives would provide for these, and (4) trail safety.

Cox briefly went over the design concepts of each of the 3 alternatives:

- Alternative A: unstructured vegetation, passive recreation, smaller plaza area, natural setting with water features, curves in the design (Alternative A1: a variation of Alternative A with a bio-filtration Stormwater management collection pond)
- Alternative B: a combination of curves and edges, natural and built environment
- Alternative C: urban, edges, concrete, active recreation

Commissioners' input:

- Must include access parking for trail use
- Concern with congestion at the Rivertrail
- Do not include a "porch" on C
- Priorities: (1) parking, (2) restrooms, (3) easy access without disrupting the trail

Bechmann questioned how each alternative would be used to reach the objectives of the plan, i.e., how do the designs match the objectives listed in *Principles and Goals*. He noted that this question was a major discussion point in the public meeting yesterday (3/30/04) where citizens were able to view the alternatives and give input.

Commissioners were asked to mark and initial their preferred alternative following this meeting.

#### **J. Youth Advocate Position**

McCoy announced that Emily Thompson, the current advocate, will be leaving for college. *McCoy asked Commissioners to be thinking about recruiting for a new youth advocate at next month's meeting. Smith will include the topic on the April agenda.*

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Smith at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

**THE NEXT REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING:  
Wednesday, April 28, 2004  
Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center  
7:00 p.m.**